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SCAN #194 (Repeat of #121)
"Mind Control Cults" 9/10/78

SCAN. This is SCAN and I'm Hal Dragseth. Several weeks ago we investigated the cult known as the Unification Church.

"Our child has been psychologically kidnapped; we honestly do believe that she has been brainwashed."

"We only got about four to six hours of sleep a night; this begins to break down the mind."

These two programs generated an avalanche of mail asking for more information. To answer this need, this week we will feature Dr. John Clark, psychiatrist with Harvard Medical School. Dr. Clark will describe the results of his three-year study of cult members and their psychological state. We dedicate this show to Barrytown, the palatial headquarters for the Unification Church of the United States.

"Barrytown" by Stoely Dan

"Lost Ecstasy" by Billy Preston

Dr. John Clark, Harvard Medical School psychiatrist, on the cults.

"I have examined thirty individuals by the usual psychiatric methods and have taken three years. The first year and a half, I doubted what I was seeing and what I was hearing from people. The picture which has emerged continues to be a consistent picture. I should also mention that I have seen individuals in all states of involvement - very early, during the induction period, of some of the cults, while they are completely in, when they were freshly out, when they were long out. And I have seen people from seven different groups, this includes the big four, as well as some of the smaller ones which are equally interesting. The pattern is consistent. All of the organizations that I have studied, either directly, or indirectly appear to use similar techniques in gaining converts and maintaining them. These techniques are now describable. They eventuate in the complete subjugation of the individual and who is then rendered helpless, unless ordered around by the leaders of the cult."

"A large number of the individuals who enter the cults do enter through being brought into a state of narrowed attention brought about by all the intensity of the program around them, which could be called a trance. It's during this state of trance that the indoctrination really proceeds. It's during this time that they are generally turned away from the old feelings about their own family. They are taught essentially to forget their biological parents, and to accept, in some sort of love and obedience, their real parents who are the leaders of the church or the imputed divinity. They are divided from old friends, old habits, old problems, so that sometimes they feel better. They are moved into areas that are extremely foreign in every respect. They are served a different kind of diet; the schedules are completely changed, the content of their minds, as reinforced by their peers or by their superiors, is that which has never been heard before in their lives, though it may have some faint resemblance. They are surrounded by aspects of terror, talk of the spernatural, and of the danger and magical dangers of crossing the dieties. In other words, they are rendered helpless, unable to grow, unable to accept a new experience. The people in the cult are generally tired; they are deprived of sleep, ordinary sleep. One whole aspect then of their cycle, physiological life, is obviously changed by real changes in the sleep pattern. I think it a very frightening state of mind because they are absolutely obedient to their leader, and would, if asked, as they have said many times, to many witnesses, kill their parents or others if they were asked to."

"Anyway You Want Me" by Bread

Psychiatrist Dr. John Clark is describing a cult member.

"They stop learning from the outside, generally the greater outside world is interpreted only through their leaders and in a very limited way. There is no way really of getting out. During this time, I think, the individuals are made sick. Their mental processes and even their physical processes are altered. But in their thinking, controlled and designed by the cult, their thinking is no longer their private business. The essential aspect of this that interest me, is that the quality of thinking, the quality of communication, and the quality of growth, if possible, is all completely altered. The thinking is prescribed, concrete, magical, does not include the capacity to deal with incongruities in the outer world. It is non-tolerant -- an absolutist -- so that the doctrine becomes the description of reality, rather than a metaphor for reality. Morality and all action then are prescribed on the basis of the street interpretation of the word as it is devised by the leaders."

"Living In A Dream" by Randall Brawlett

"Individuals, who under these circumstances, develop hallucinatory experiences, as these do who are isolated from their usual reminders of reality -- hallucinatory experiences and delusions and sometimes frank psychotic episodes. I worry about their capacity to love because I see that love is also prescribed."

"The relations between the sexes are regulated completely with no possibility of any accidental love. Tenderness is really non-existant because the individuals are not flexible enough in their human relations to understand tenderness. Such a person kept strictly inside of a totalistic structure such as this can be, after a period of time, permanently is damaged. In a short time there is a sharp and catastrophic change of mind - a shift in personality to a new and rather narrower base, with the old personality and all it's memories, especially memories of feelings, left behind. The communications patterns are sharply changed. Those who belong to such cults are no longer capable of using real humor. There is no lightness, no capacity for simple joy. The humor is impossible in someone who does not enjoy ambiguities. There is a kind of a pall of seriousness when they are talking of their sacred doctrines, their sacred sciences, that makes one worry about the degree to which they are really in ordinary reality."

"The Road To Babylon" by Manfred Mann

Dr. John Clark, psychiatrist, on the cults.

"What they have essentially done is to take away an aspect of life that I think most of us would consider to be very valuable, and that is the aspect of a free unfettered mind that can contribute rightily to solving the problems of the organism in which it lives, without always referring to someone outside authority. Joost Meirloo wrote the book, The Rape Of The Mind, and he called this process "mentricide." I agree. The individuals idiosyncratic family-based conscience, for instance, is turned over to the cult. Conscience is not any longer a part of one's upbringing and with that appears to go all real tenderness and affection for one's family. It's just not there. But with conscience gone, and in the hands of some outsider, one becomes a part of the mob and if that is maintained, then it becomes semi-permanent, and finally, by acculturation, permanent."

"I don't think practice of religions, if they are criminal/cruel, are protected by the Constitution. I think that has already been established."

"To paraphrase Samuel Johnson, religion has become the last resort of scoundrels. It used to be patriotism was the last resort of scoundrels. And it doesn't take much imagination to see how easy that certain people could discover this. It's a specially protected area; it's almost untouchable. Nobody wants to get into it. It's very easy to defend because one can defend it on the basis of doctrine. The law doesn't want to touch it; it's very expensive and furthermore, it's dangerous because alot of the organizations we are talking about, have had huge resources. They can hire the best lawyers, they can mount the best suits, they can cost an individual, or a small organization, an enormous amount of money and they can neutralize almost anything. And in the case of the Korean Connection, which is now being studied in Washington, they have had the force of government behind them. And the Korean Connection, according to Mary McGlary, and those who know the circumstances, includes the leaders of the Unification Church. In The Master Speaks materials, the political aims are explicit, but the lesson here is that they came a fair way toward buying the Congress. It's also clear that there is an organization now encompassing the Unification Church, the Hare Krishnas, and the Scientologists. The organization is called APRIL, which is an acronym for something, and it is designed to combat anti-religious forces. The anti-religious forces include a very small number of the people, especially the few professionals who are interested in the scouting-out this business and exposing it, as best we can, and developing theories. They are not happy; they are aggressively campaigning with governors and legislators, wherever there is some danger that somebody might be influenced by us. They are doing their best to discredit the professionals that are in the field to their own professionals. But most interesting is, again, it looks as though they are conspiring together instead of doing what they have always said in the past, basically holding each other in contempt for their being wrong in doctrine. It is a very large and frightening business when you look at it this way - as a political force with political aims and technical capacity to change hundreds and thousands of peoples' minds in such ways that they become willing slaves, unable to remember that they ever loved anybody or had any humanistic

[illegible] these people are the armies of the cults."

[illegible].

This is SCAN, Dr. John Clark believes it's possible to restore a cult member to the former healthier state.

"From the point of view of parents, they often had the sense of loss so great that they have witnessed the death of their children. Their offspring have become to them non-existent as they were. Their social selves, their family selves, have been altered so directly and greatly and all the hopes of parents that they had created individuals from all the pains of twenty years of caring for them, who would be autonomous, who would be able to deal with the outside world, and the ethical problems of living, and the socio-economic problems by themselves. They see all of these hopes smashed. Thus they have to revert to the techniques of rescue and deprogramming. It's an attempt to get the individual to start thinking for himself."

"The reversion to the old much more rich form of thinking is generally a rather rapid one once it starts. All the old emotions, the style of thought, the humor, irony, metaphor, are rather suddenly back and the individual can see where he was and where he is, and can react, from where he is toward where he was, with a sense of horror and surprise."

"I Wanna Know" by Ambrosia

"This state of mind goes on for about two weeks to four, five, or six weeks afterward, but there is no question that the old personality, with its old problems and all of its old successes and its own development are back. The people who come out are really quite sick for about a year; they are depressed, they're depleted, they're unable to make up their minds, they don't know where they are going - they have been hurt. We are balanced in reality by our wits, by our understanding, by our backgrounds, and our identifications, and by our consciences, and by the institutions around us, and by those who love us, by those whom we love, and we must remain in some kind of reasonable balance with these."

"This Could Be The Worst" by Randall Bramlett

"I have been called, by one of the large cults, and told that I'm being watched and the implication of this particular cult, which was always in court suing somebody, is that of course, I will be sued if they can find the slightest bit of grounds. Clearly, they cannot stand criticism - not criticism in the open world. They do not like what's being said about them and would like to reduce the argument to a matter of heresy, or no heresy - disagreement about doctrine. I do not worry about doctrine. That's not my problem, they can believe anything they want. These cults are interfering with people's thoughts, they are controlling their thinking, they are doing the unthinkable. This is cruel, it is brutal, it is as bad as breaking a man's back in order to render him helpless, in fact it is worse. And in the end it might be the death of that person's mind."

You are listening to SCAN. This week we featured Dr. John Clark, psychiatrist with Harvard Medical School, who shared the results of his three-year study of the religious cults. If you would like a free printed copy of the talk portion of this week's show, write to SCAN, Box 122, Minneapolis, MN. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and indicate the station on which you heard this broadcast. I'm Hal Dragseth and John Ylvisaker and I produce SCAN with Larry, and Dennis. SCAN is a public service feature of this station and is a gift of love from the people of the United Methodist Church and the American Lutheran Church, Box 122, Minneapolis, MN.

SCAN.